

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A containment/exclusion boom comprising:
a boom curtain comprising an upper curtain portion and a lower
5 curtain portion that are connected together at a central region, the upper and lower
curtain portions each being formed of a sheet of flexible fabric material that allows
the flow of water therethrough;
first and second support systems which can be positioned in a
body of water and connected separately to distinct positions on the boom curtain;
10 whereby the first and second support systems maintain at least
one of the upper and lower curtain portions in a substantially sloped arrangement
upon introduction of the boom into the body of water.
2. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 the first
15 and second support systems maintain both the upper and lower curtain portions in a
substantially sloped arrangement in the body of water.
3. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 wherein
the first support system is connected to an upper end of the upper curtain portion.
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4. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 wherein
the second support system is connected to the central region
5. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 further
25 comprising a ballast connected to the central region.
6. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 further
comprising a ballast connected to a lower end of the lower curtain portion.
- 30 7. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 further
comprising a Y-panel anchoring system connected to a lower end of the lower curtain
portion.
8. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 wherein
35 the flexible fabric material is a geosynthetic fabric.

9. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 wherein the first support system comprises a floating support system.

10. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 wherein the second support system comprises a floating support system.

11. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 wherein the first support system is a combination of a permanent or semi-permanent structure and a floating support system.

12. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 wherein the upper and lower curtain portions each define a plane, the upper and lower curtain portions being substantially aligned in coplanar relation.

13. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 2 wherein the upper and lower curtain portions each define a plane, the upper and lower curtain portions being aligned in non-coplanar relation.

14. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 13 wherein the upper and lower curtain portions have a cross-sectional V-shaped configuration.

15. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 wherein the upper and lower curtain portions are each formed of two sheets of flexible fabric material.

16. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 15 further comprising:

a gas injection system comprising a source of compressed gas, a conduit in communication with the source of compressed gas, and at least one outlet in a conduit positioned between the two sheets of flexible fabric material of the upper curtain portion.

17. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 15 further comprising:

5 a gas injection system comprising a source of compressed gas, a conduit in communication with the source of compressed gas, and at least one outlet in a conduit positioned between the two sheets of flexible fabric material of the lower curtain portion.

18. The containment/exclusion boom according to claim 15 further comprising:

10 a gas injection system comprising a source of compressed gas, a conduit in communication with the source of compressed gas, at least one outlet in a conduit positioned between the two sheets of flexible fabric material of the upper curtain portion, and at least one outlet in a conduit positioned between the two sheets of flexible fabric material of the lower curtain portion.

15 19. A method of filtering water in a body of water comprising:
providing a containment/exclusion boom according to claim 1 in a body of water substantially surrounding a water intake located within the body of water; and

20 removing water from the body of water via the water intake, whereby water passes through the curtain of the containment/exclusion boom before said removing.

25 20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the upper and lower boom portions are both maintained in a sloped position in the water, whereby each of the upper and lower portions is independently sloped at an angle, relative to the water surface, of between about 25 and about 65 degrees.